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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: MICROPOROUS MEMBRANE AIR FRESHENING DEVICE

(57) Abstract: There is described a device comprising a base with at least one volatile active housed in a reservoir, at least one wall of which comprises a wicking membrane. In particular there is described a device which is a liquid air freshener.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/01483

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61L9/12 A61L9/04 A01M1/20 A01M13/00 A01N25/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61L A01M A01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 889 286 A (SPECTOR DONALD) 26 December 1989 (1989-12-26)	1,3-12, 18,20, 28,34, 36,37, 40-48
Y	column 1, line 16 - line 30 column 2, line 50 -column 4, line 41; figures 1-6	2,4, 13-16, 19,21, 22, 29-33, 38,39

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 August 2003

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27/08/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 836 857 A (MILLIPORE SA) 22 April 1998 (1998-04-22) column 5, line 11 - line 28 column 6, line 27 - line 32; figure 1 ---	4,19
Y	EP 1 078 640 A (INT FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES INC) 28 February 2001 (2001-02-28) cited in the application page 5, line 50 -page 6, line 19; claim 1 ---	33
Y	US 4 663 081 A (GRIMSHAW BRYAN ET AL) 5 May 1987 (1987-05-05) cited in the application column 1, line 7 - line 39 column 2, line 33 - line 45 ---	2,29-32, 38,39
Y	WO 98 16262 A (JOHNSON & SON INC S C) 23 April 1998 (1998-04-23) page 4, line 20 -page 5, line 16; figure 1 ---	21,22
Y	WO 96 31244 A (PAUL LEONARD) 10 October 1996 (1996-10-10) page 13, line 2 -page 18, line 2; figures 1-4 ---	13-16
X	EP 0 218 892 A (UNION CAMP CORP) 22 April 1987 (1987-04-22) column 3, line 26 -column 4, line 47; figures 1,2 ---	1,3-5,8, 11,12, 20,36, 37,40,41
X	EP 0 003 003 A (AIRWICK AG) 11 July 1979 (1979-07-11) page 5, line 1 -page 12 page 29, line 3 -page 30; figures 11-13 ---	1-5, 8-11,20, 28-32, 34,36-41
A	US 4 824 707 A (SPECTOR DONALD) 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) column 2, line 53 -column 5, line 2; figures 1-5 ---	1-34, 36-48
A	US 5 014 913 A (HOYT EARL ET AL) 14 May 1991 (1991-05-14) column 2, line 15 -column 3, line 32; figures 1-9 -----	1-34, 36-48

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 35, 49
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 35,49

Claim 35 is not specified in terms of technical features (Rule 6.3(a) PCT while claim 49 relates to the description (Rule 6.2(a) PCT).

It is stated that the non-technical features contained in dependent claim 48 are entirely optional.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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